

Applicant: Long, et al.  
Application Serial No.: 10/616,278  
Filing Date: July 9, 2003  
Docket No.: 1341-2  
Reply to Final Office Action mailed October 10, 2004  
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**Remarks/Arguments**

Claims 21, 22, 33, 35, 37, 40 and 61 have been amended and Claims 32 and 64 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 20-31, 33-42, 61-63 and 65-68 are currently pending.

**I. Amendments:**

Applicants thank Examiner Krishnan for the telephone call to Applicants' representative on February 25, 2005 and the suggestions for additional amendments to the claims. Applicants have amended Claims 21, 22, 33, 35, 37, 40 and 61 in according with Examiner Krishnan's suggestions.

In that regard, Claims 21, 22, 37 and 40 have been amended to clarify the claimed ranges. No new matter has been added.

Claim 33 has been amended to depend from claim 29. Again, no new matter has been added.

Claim 35 has been amended at the suggestion of Examiner Krishnan to clarify that "material" refers to a constituent of the eggshell membrane.

Finally, Claim 61 has been amended to delete the "for use with mammals" language and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 64. As such, no new matter has been added.

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## **II. The Invention:**

The invention (claims 20-31, 33-42, 67 and 68) is directed to methods for producing a hyaluronic acid (HA) composition which include the steps of: (1) providing eggshell membrane from a mature fowl egg and (2) extracting an HA rich fraction from the membrane.

In another aspect, the invention (claims 61-63 and 65-66) is directed to methods for producing a hyaluronic acid product which include the steps of: (1) providing eggshell membrane from a mature fowl egg, (2) extracting an HA rich fraction from the membrane and (3) incorporating the HA rich fraction in the HA containing product.

The cited prior art references do not disclose the methods for producing the HA composition from eggshell membrane or the methods for producing an HA containing product, as presently claimed.

## **III. Rejections:**

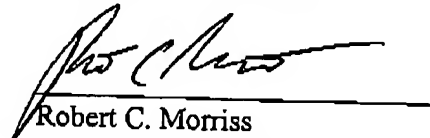
Applicants incorporate by reference their comments from the Amendment filed on February 3, 2005, by facsimile into this Supplemental Amendment. For the reasons discussed in that previously filed Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the above claims are now in condition for allowance.

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### CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the application as amended, including claims 20-31, 33-42, 61-63 and 65-68, is now in proper form for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If resolution of any remaining issue is required prior to examination of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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